

KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

(Including *Ku-ring-gai Family History Group*) • Patron: *The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai*

September 2014

NEWSLETTER

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James Barnet – Sydney’s Christopher Wren?

According to Don Napper, if anyone deserves the title “The Christopher Wren of Sydney”, it is James Barnet, NSW Colonial Architect from 1865 to 1890. Emeritus Professor Napper spoke with enthusiasm at our July meeting of Barnet’s “more than a thousand” public buildings in NSW.

Born in Arbroath, Scotland in 1827, the son of a builder and educated at the local high school, Barnet moved to London at 16 as a builder’s apprentice. Studying architecture in his spare time, he became influenced by the classical revivalist style apparent in all of his subsequent work. In 1854, with little chance of becoming established as an architect in London, he sailed for Sydney.

He worked first as a stone mason for Edmund Blacket who, seeing his potential, promoted him to clerk of works at the University of Sydney building site. Then with Blacket’s influence he obtained a position in the Colonial Architect’s Office. Within two years he was acting head of the office and in 1865, became the Colonial Architect, holding that position until the office was reorganized in 1890.

Over the 27 years that he was in charge of the office he changed the face of architecture in NSW, with responsibility for the design of NSW public buildings, including 169 post offices, 155 police stations, 110 gaols and lockups and 20 lighthouses. Most of these are still standing and many are still in use. Unfortunately, Sydney’s Garden Palace burnt down in 1882. This was an immense building (dome as large as St Peters in Rome). But there remain many familiar to us, including Sydney GPO, The Lands Building, Macquarie Lighthouse, Customs House, The Public Library, Old Medical School Sydney University, Callan Park Asylum, Mortuary Station at Central Railway, North Sydney PO, Goulburn and Bathurst courthouses, and Berrima Gaol.

Of course Barnet had his critics. For decoration on the GPO Barnet installed carvings portraying selected activities (and perhaps people) of the day. There was criticism, ‘they were unnatural, burlesque and grotesque’. But today these carvings can still be seen high up on the Pitt Street frontage of the GPO. Other criticisms that Don Napper mentioned were the 370% over-run on budget for the Garden Palace and his leaving the supervision of the old Medical School in the hands of an 18 year old youth – his son Thomas.

The Colonial Architect’s office was also responsible for NSW fortifications. In 1890 a royal commission investigated the letting of contracts and the work already completed on the Bare Island fort in Botany Bay. They found that construction was below standard and that the Colonial Architect’s supervision had not been adequate. This censure was a regrettable end to Barnet’s distinguished career. He resigned as Colonial Architect and the office was closed – to be reopened later as the Public Works Department.

Barnet died in 1904, and is buried at Rookwood Cemetery, for which he designed the Mortuary Station, now the All Saints Church in Canberra. His epitaph: ‘*If you seek his genius, look around the city*’.

Doug Milne

General Meeting

Saturday 20 September 2.00 pm

The Original Ku-ring-gai People.

Speaker: **Geoff Ford.**

Research findings drawn from the earliest historical records show “Ku-ring-gai” was named after Aboriginal people from Broken Bay.



Bidji Salamander, 1830

**Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.**

Family History Meeting

Saturday 6 September

11.00 am New websites, including NSW BDMs and general Q & A

2.00 pm **General Meeting followed by:**
“My First Fleet Ancestor was....”

Speakers: Three members from the Arthur Phillip Chapter of The Fellowship of First Fleeters: Josie Kennedy, descendant of James Wright; Marilyn Long, descendant of Catherine Johnson; John Small, descendant of John Small and Mary Parker.



**Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.**

New KHS Committee

At the Society's Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday 16 August 2014, the following members were elected.

President: Graham Lewis

Vice Presidents: Jo Harris, Jenny Joyce

Treasurer: Peter Stehn

Secretary: Trish Thomson

Committee: Ann Barry, Neil Falconer, Morrison Hammond, Margaret Holland, Yvette Reeve

Immediate Past President: Jennifer Harvey

Special Interest Groups

Mac Users Group

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday 1 September at 2.00 pm** in the Research Centre. There have been so many new apps come available lately – come along and tell us about your favourite(s).

If you have any specific questions, please email them in advance so they can be circulated to the group for answers. (jackievb@optusnet.com.au)

No need to book, just turn up. Bring your laptop or iPad if you like.

Jackie van Bergen

German Research SIG

The next meeting of the German SIG is planned for **Monday 13 October 2014 at 1.30 pm** in our rooms.

Peter Stehn

Irish Research SIG

The meeting on Friday August 8th was well attended by sixteen people including two new members, Susan Wilson and Julia Green.

The meeting was informative and lively with both Jenny Joyce and Alan Jones having returned from Ireland and updating us on their research.

A few web sites worth noting were discussed: www.irishlivesremembered.com, www.irishgenealogy.com and www.failteireland.ie.

The next meeting will be at **1.30 pm on September 12.**

Rod Gillespie

Technology SIG

The next meeting of the Technology Special Interest Group will be held on **Thursday 11 September at 1.30 pm** in the Research Centre.

All computer users are welcome to join our discussions. Notification of topics will be posted on the Society blog and Facebook pages prior to the meeting.

For enquiries please email jillballau@gmail.com.

Jill Ball

WWI Researchers and Writers

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

We've had to change the date for August – instead of the 4th Saturday, we are meeting on the 5th Saturday, i.e. **Saturday 30 August 2014 from 2.00–4.00 pm**. We really hope you can come along as we want to talk about:

* A review of our biography writings (including an updated and revised writers' guide).

* General discussion and questions arising from Vol. 1.

Also, Dave Wilkins will talk about the desert war (PowerPoint presentation).

The September meeting of the WWI researchers and writers group will be on **Saturday 27 September 2014**.

If you would like to join us researching and/or writing, please contact Kathie Rieth on frithie@netdata.com.au.

Kathie Rieth

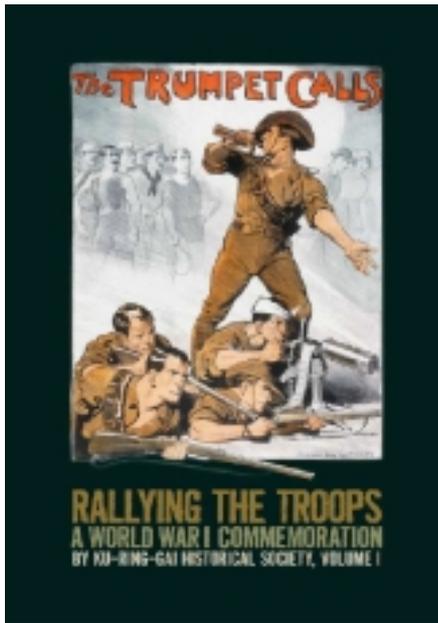
Rallying The Troops Volume I

The Society's new book was launched on 26 July 2014.

Copies of the book were on sale at the launch at 20% off the regular price, with a special offer of \$40 until 31 August.

From September 2014 the price will be \$50.

Packaging and Postage in Australia is extra, at \$15 per book.



Quiz Answers (see p. 8 for Questions)

Further information may be found at the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Research Centre.

1. a) & d). The name Killara was chosen by the railways commission for the station which opened in 1899. Before Killara came into existence Greengate Road formed the boundary between Gordon and Lindfield.
2. a) Karanga Avenue – Karanga is an Aboriginal word meaning "up".
3. c) Four: 1. Anglican – St Martins, Arnold St. 2. Congregational now Uniting, Five Ways. 3. Catholic – Immaculate Heart of Mary, corner Fiddens Wharf Road and Charles Street. 4. Methodist, Springdale Road; 1967 became the Armenian Apostolic Church, since demolished.
4. a), b), c) & d): a) "Bangalore" in Locksley Street (1908–1977). b) "Strathlea" in Killara Avenue (1930–1931). c) "Soutdean" in Buckingham Street (1955–1974). d) "Patene" later known as "Rosalie" in Greengate Road (1965–1969).
5. a) & d). a) Harold Holt. d) William McMahon.
6. c) 2 Northcote Avenue, Killara.

Highly successful book launch



On Saturday 26 July the Society held a most successful book launch for its latest publication, *Rallying the Troops; A World War I Commemoration* by the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, Volume I. Held at the Lindfield Seniors Centre, the book was launched by Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial and former Federal Member for Bradfield, who also wrote the book's foreword. Attended by over 160 members and guests, other distinguished guests included Paul Fletcher, the current Member for Bradfield, Barry O'Farrell, State Member for Ku-ring-gai, and Jennifer Anderson, Mayor of Ku-ring-gai.

Dr Nelson's wonderful address was most warmly received by all, as he commended the new book, recounted moving stories from the Great War and informed the audience of the impressive plans being implemented by the Australian War Memorial for its commemoration of the War.

The Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon was David Wilkins who introduced the other speakers, Jennifer Harvey, President of KHS, Jennifer Anderson, and Kathie Rieth, coordinator and principal editor of the book.

Amongst other things, Kathie thanked the World War I Writers' Group, whose members contributed to the research, writing and editing of the book, particularly the central sub-committee comprising (apart from herself) Allan Rost, Janet Turner, Jackie Van Bergen and David Wilkins. Other contributors to the book were Angela Bird, John Brooker, Stuart Cameron, Ed Carr, Helen Whitsed Davies, Lyn Done, Chris Edye, Judith Ellerington, Beth and Richard Facer, Tracey Fiertl, Bob Grant, Ellen Gredley, Jennifer Harvey, Sue Kelly, Ken Knight, Angela Lind, Margaret Pender, Marjorie Perry, Kathie Rieth, Diane Ritchie, Beverly Robinson, John Summers, Trish Thomson, Betty Turner, Kate Tytherleigh, Pat Webb and Evelyn Wyatt. Many of these are included in the above photo.

Many members of the Society assisted with the afternoon's activities, the overall arrangements being most capably organised and coordinated by Kate Tytherleigh. All involved have the sincere gratitude of the World War I Writers' Group.

Copies of the book are held for sale at the KHS Research Centre. The early bird price of \$40 continues until the end of August, after which the price will be \$50.

David Wilkins

Ku-ring-gai Heroes of World War I *Major Bertie Lowing, MC and Bar*

This highly decorated and distinguished soldier from Wellesley Road, Pymble, began as a sergeant with the 12th Light Horse (LH) Regiment in 1914 and during the war was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, Lieutenant, Captain, and finally Major. He served with the 6th LH Regiment at Gallipoli before returning to Egypt and transferring back to 12th LH Regiment.

Lowing was involved in many of the raids and battles of the Middle East campaign, including across the Sinai Desert, at Gaza; at Beersheba (he was part of the historic charge of the Light Horse Brigade); across the Jordan Valley, including the raid upon Es Salt; northwards along the Mediterranean coast in Palestine; and finally to Damascus.

During the push northwards after the battle at Beersheba, Captain Lowing was first awarded the Military Cross for his conspicuous gallantry during an enemy counter attack on 12 November 1917. He led his squadron in an attack with exceptional dash under heavy shellfire over difficult terrain, and in these most adverse conditions his demeanour and complete disregard of personal danger kept the morale of his men high, and through his quiet initiative, they were successful. The following day, when orders were received that the enemy's well-defended position had to be taken at dawn, as water was urgently required, Lowing, acting on his own initiative, vigorously pushed forward with his squadron before dawn, captured an enemy outpost of six men and ascertained that the enemy was withdrawing before dawn, which left the entrance clear. This information enabled the whole division to move forward more quickly to obtain the urgently needed water for the horses.

Captain Lowing was again recognised when awarded a Bar to his Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and skilful leadership in commanding his squadron on the 25th September 1918. At Semakh on the southern tip of the Sea of Galilee in Palestine, when his squadron was ordered to attack, the enemy resisted stubbornly and was only subdued after bitter hand-to-hand fighting in the buildings of the village. Later the same day, by a smart flanking movement, Captain Lowing captured the enemy garrison at Tiberias, consisting of twelve officers and 83 other ranks, together with 13 machine guns.

His commanding officer considered Lowing to be a 'capable and fearless squadron leader ... and a sound tactician'.

Bertie Lowing married in 1923 and later lived in Lindfield where he died in 1937.



David Wilkins

Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Inc.

Committee Report 2013-2014

The last 12 months have been an exciting and productive period for us. This has been made possible with the support of the members of the Committee. This dedicated group has played a significant part in moving our Society forward and providing a service not only to our members, but also to the community.

On 7 November 2013 the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society celebrated 50 years of continuous activity, culminating in a very successful and enjoyable gala dinner that was held at the Roseville Golf Club and organised by the 50 year sub-committee chaired by Don Nicholson. The publication ***KHS the first 50 years 1963-2013*** by Helen Davies was launched by the Federal member for Bradfield, Paul Fletcher.

Another major event was the book launch of ***Rallying the Troops*** on 26 July 2014 by Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the AWM. This is the first of three volumes of our commemoration of those men and women who served in the Great War and who had links to the Ku-ring-gai community.

The WWI subcommittee under the co-ordinators Kathie Rieth and Dave Wilkins worked tirelessly for over a year to produce this exceptional publication. The book launch was a great success with many dignitaries attending.

To celebrate Seniors Week the members of the KHS committee held a series of lectures from 10–18 March 2014.

Our Research Centre is now used Monday to Saturday. We are able to provide this service due to our hard working volunteers. On Mondays, Peter Stehn maintains and updates our computers. Our system is outstanding, thanks to Peter, who dedicates many hours to ensure its smooth running. We now have a network of 12 computers providing access to more than 700 computer-based resources.

Since 26 May, Jo Harris, has been running a very successful Family History Course.

On Tuesdays the Built Heritage Group, which has become an integral part of the Society, assists with enquiries from residents, council, heritage architects etc. The group consists of Jennifer Harvey, Lorna Watt, Trish Thomson and Carolyn Darby.

The Research Centre is closed on Wednesdays to allow the preservation group to work on the Society's Collections. Ann Barry co-ordinates a very large and dedicated group of volunteers, who type, scan, sort, file and organise our records. Ann is also on duty most Thursdays. She has added more than 1700 photos into Perfect Pictures over the last year.

The General Meetings this year have been held on the third Saturday of each month. We have had some interesting speakers efficiently organised by Beverley Dunstan. On the first Saturday of each month, the Family History Meetings are held under the leadership of Jo Harris. This is a very active group and their meetings are very well attended.

Our Volunteers are our most important asset and without them the Society could not function as efficiently as it does. On 17 May the committee hosted a luncheon for our volunteers. Volunteer information sessions have been held

and we now have an easy to use, up-to-date guide, courtesy of Annet Latham.

Jackie van Bergen has been writing our Grant Applications for the last six years. She has been very successful with these applications, and the Society is most appreciative of her efforts. It is now two years since committee member Jill Ball entered the KHS into the world of Social Media. We now have a blog site, Facebook page and a new twitter account.

Graham Lewis was appointed our web master in 2009, an important job as the majority of our research enquiries come through this site.

Our Public Officer Helen Davies has suffered ill health for the past few months and we wish her well with her recovery.

Our volunteers also research and write for our other publications, such as:

Newsletter: Ten issues of the *Newsletter* have been published over the last year. Thanks to our Editor Bob Barry. The volunteers who proof-read, and assist with printing and mail-out are greatly valued.

The Historian: the main journal for the Society, is produced by Editors Jennifer Harvey, Kathie Rieth, Lorna Watt, Trish Thomson, Allan Rost, John Brown, Bob Ross and Beth Facer (indexing). This publication has become a very important source of information for a wide range of organisations.

Kupedia: Peter Stehn has initiated a web-based programme called *Kupedia* that contains articles on people, places, and events relating to Ku-ring-gai. Our thanks go to Kate Tytherleigh, Lorraine Swalwell and Jill Armstrong for assisting with this project.

All our other volunteer activities are also important.

Accessions: Jennifer Wallin.

Catering: Jill Nicholson (retired in June). Vicki Williams covers the General Meetings and Margaret Holland the Family History Meetings.

Display Cases: Unfortunately Jocelyn Brennan-Horley who maintains her well-researched displays in the hallway has been unwell. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Family History Committee: Jo Harris (leader), Margaret Holland, Jenny Joyce, Yvette Reeve, Beverly Robinson, Jean Smith, Elaine Turnidge.

Newsletter folding: Shirley Luttrell, Ray Holland, June Greenhalgh, Shirley Clarke, Pat Pitt.

Outreach: Our thanks go to Jo Harris who has been our main outreach speaker.

Publicity: Sue Dunston

Preservation Group (led by Ann Barry): Les Jeckeln organises the vertical files and is currently working on the Cardew Collection; Jennifer Thredgold is working her way through the Laing papers; Daryl Rickards: is entering BDM from St Johns into a data base; Bruce Robinson maintains our Asset file, writes up monthly accessions for the *Newsletter* and prints envelopes for the *Newsletter*; Elaine Turnidge has been working through the vertical files typing the hand-written notes; Heather Burgess has been assisting in files, Built Heritage and other items; Carolyn Darby maintains the Biographical files and files the many odd pieces

of paper dumped into the red basket; Elizabeth Dokulil has been organising and typing the Oral History collection of papers; Annet Latham has been working through the GPS enrolments with Peter; Pat Pitt has been working on the Kerrin Cook photo collection; Dinah Warner is scanning photo collections.

Research Team: Bruce and Beverly Robinson co-ordinate a small group of researchers that handle enquiries that come into the Society. These include Jo Harris, Jennifer Harvey and Trish Thomson.

Special Interest Groups: A growing area of the Society is the Special Interest Groups. These now include: Irish Group co-ordinated by Ric Hall and Rod Gillespie; German Group co-ordinated by Peter Stehn; Mac Users Group co-ordinated by Jackie van Bergen;

Volunteers Roster: Heather Davidson

Welfare Officer: Elaine Turnidge

WWI group, co-ordinated by Kathie Rieth and David Wilkins: has produced a well-researched and written publication.

Many of our members have received awards for their contributions to the Society and Community at large. Congratulations to them all on a job well done.

The past 50 years have seen many changes in the Society. However, our aims remain virtually unchanged: we still undertake research; and collect, preserve and record local historical information. The Committee would like to thank our members and volunteers for their support over the last year.

As many of you know I will be stepping down from the Presidency this year. I would like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President and my thanks go to the Committee and the members of the Society for their support and encouragement.

Jennifer Harvey, President

on behalf of the Committee, August 2014

Vale Estelle Howell

One of our lovely volunteers died Friday 15 August, aged 91. Estelle worked as a room volunteer with Wendy Ermert for a number of years, and with the Preservation Group, working carefully through the vertical files.



She retired as a Volunteer in 2010 due to failing health.

A voracious reader, Estelle had a wide range of interests, and although a very quiet person, was always interested in the wide range of topics covered in our files, and the people involved. During the time she worked with us she was also studying French, and working in St Johns Cemetery. Her loss has saddened the volunteer group, her friends and family.

From the Vertical files

Memories of Gordon Public School

“All written work was executed on slates. Girls and a very few boys brought pieces of cloth for slate cleaning. Many boys preferred spit and rub with the palm of the hand.

Geography was learnt by rote. Although I have reached the age of eighty-four years I can still say the names of the capes, bays, rivers and the chief towns of the coastal district.

All pupils were charged threepence a week to attend school but families of more than four paid a shilling. These school fees were abolished in 1907.

There was no organised sport. The boys played marbles, always for keeps, peg tops, prisoners base, sides and fly. Girls played jacks, hop scotch and three holes. String tricks were also popular.

Before school, sometimes at lunch time and in the afternoon while waiting for the train to Hornsby that arrived at Gordon at 4.40 pm, many boys swam in the water hole in Gordon Creek. The Log Hole, as it was called, was about 30 feet long, 20 feet wide and about 4 feet deep, with scarcely enough water to wet all the boys at the same time.

The water of early times came from an underground well. Two boys carried a four gallon bucket full to the steps of the boys weather shed. Some boys drank from pannikins, tin mugs, other by cupping their hands, or as the North of Ireland people called it, drinking by ‘gopin fulls’.

Mr Fry was the headmaster. ‘Cocky’ was a strict disciplinarian who taught with a liberal use of the cane, expertly applied. As a special privilege the bright pupils in the lower classes were allowed to weed the garden of Mr Fry’s residence adjoining the school.

One long remembered time, the school was closed for a week in September, 1907, when Mr Fry’s niece contracted diphtheria. As four other cases had been reported prior to this Mr Fry was instructed to disinfect the school and residence. An unexpected holiday!

The really bright boys were coached by Mrs Fry to sit for the State Examination giving entry to Sydney High School. Some of these boys who subsequently had distinguished careers were Rhodes Scholars, Ray Kershaw, Arthur Wheen and Keith Bradfield; Fred Birne, later Judge Birne who even in his school days said he would be a judge; and Harold Farncomb, later Rear Admiral Farncomb, CB, DSO, MVO, RAN, the most highly decorated senior officer in the Royal Australian Navy.”

Typed 23 July 2014 by Elaine Turnidge from undated photocopied typed notes from G W Hall & Co, Chatswood.

Mr Fry was headmaster at Gordon Public School 1889–1924. If you can identify the author of the notes, please contact Ann Barry on 9144 6480.

Editor says farewell

After some five years as Editor of the *Newsletter*, it’s time to move on. As Editor, I’ve been the “front man” of the team, putting the finishing touches to material cajoled from the Committee and others, and initially processed, by my wife Ann. My thanks go to those contributors and our proof-readers, Richard Facer and Tony Prince, who’ve helped raise our quality level.

Bob Barry

FAMILY MATTERS

August Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

Jo Harris opened the gathering of at least 20 who signed the attendance book.

Recent additions to Trove – see page 41 August “Family Tree Connections”, also ‘find my past’ – too many to list so a handout was given, plus a sheet of Top Websites for August. Tips. Guidelines given to place information from Trove or elsewhere onto a Word document using DOS commands. Windows 7 has a cropping tool, called a snipping tool. Family Tree Maker – to print a tree save as a one page PDF, place on a memory stick and take to Office Works for printing.

Notes by Jean Smith

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed the 50+ members, new members and several visitors.

Jo welcomed our member and long time resident of Kuring-gai, our Guest Speaker, Aubrey (Mac) Knowles, OAM FASA, and his topic “One hundred and eighty eight years in the Colony”. Aubrey sincerely thanked Yvette, Beverly and Jo for their assistance in research and typing for his presentation.

Some facts from Aubrey’s talk – highs and lows of ancestors, parents and grandparents – brave soldiers, found way to Portugal where Britain had influence after involvement in Napoleonic wars – some lived in a castle and some went and lived on Isle of Man – early 1800s Britain controlled large part of the world with population of 8.9 million, 1/3rd of population of Australia today – Aubrey’s ancestors included 3 Benjamin Sullivans, first was son of Phillip O’Sullivan, he married Elizabeth Irwin in 1720, who was a baronet, their son Benjamin Sullivan was second son so Aubrey’s line of the family missed out of the baronetcy – first Benjamin Sullivan married Bridget Ulrick, and he had a son Benjamin Sullivan who was a lawyer and went to India at the behest of the East India Company, later became a judge in India and was knighted and became Sir Benjamin Sullivan – he married Elizabeth, daughter of Admiral Sir Digby Bent 12 years after going to India but had fathered another Benjamin Sullivan, mystery who was the mother, possibly an Indian Princess – Aubrey is awaiting DNA results – bought a commission for this son in the army, who became a major – now on to 1800s Battle of Trafalgar, 19 French ships sunk or surrendered and no British ships sunk, Napoleon 67,000 troops and Wellington with 65,000 troops, but Wellington deployed his troops very well, he had 3 capable officers, Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Snodgrass, Major Benjamin Sullivan and Major Thomas Mitchell who later became Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General of NSW – these three met again in NSW in 1828 – Now early 1800s to Convict John Andrews, his brother Henry and their father tried for stealing a sheep – father was let off, but John and Henry convicted to life imprisonment and John spent 7 months on hulks in Portsmouth, only very strong survived – after several months on ship, on arrival in Sydney was assigned to surveyor Peter Ogilvie at Port Macquarie – Major Benjamin Sullivan arrived in 1828 was assigned land at Williams River and went with his wife Margaret Isabella, 4

children and 3 servants – Margaret Isabella, Aubrey’s great grandmother – Sullivan managed to exist there for 4 years but ran out of resources and returned to Sydney where brother-in-law Snodgrass was Lieutenant Governor – Sullivan then to Port Macquarie as first Magistrate – later Margaret Isabella was visiting Government House and met John Andrews who was now the gardener – they had met previously and she had a child – later they eloped and had 6 children – after John Andrews died at 64 Margaret received a plot of land at Graves End, between Moree and Warialda and travelled 300 miles from Wollombi to Graves End with 2 horses, a dray, 6 children, the eldest 10 years old, a bag of wheat, a bag of chaff, a bag of corn and 3 implements, a hoe, a rake and a shovel – Margaret died aged 83 – Aubrey’s mother Grace was one of the 6 children.

Aubrey lived at 52 Tryon Road Lindfield, was born at 7 Tryon Road, his mother went in a Hansom Cab – he went to Gordon Public School, Mr Jennings the HM, his teacher Mr Fountain, then with 2 others went to Newington College – at age 16 put his age up and joined the army, but thought his mother intervened and after 3 months was told to come back at 18 which he did, served 4½ years in the army fighting the Japanese – he was a radio operator – camp was out of Albury where he enjoyed the weekly dances at the Drill Hall and pictures each night – was to meet a young lady one night but instead was on a truck to Melbourne, and ship to Sydney then to Lae, NG and the ship “SS Montoro”, was the first landing of an amphibious ship in Lae – his group was 36 Wireless Task Section, a Communication Unit, and an independent unit – 22 ships sunk off coast of NSW by Japanese between 1942-43 – when ship in Sydney he went down the rope off the bow and thumbed a lift to Roseville to see his parents – his friend Ron and some others went to Kings Cross – was pleased to see ship still at the wharf and managed to get back on board – when OIC found out, he put out musters at each port so it did not happen again.

Aubrey, was most junior when he joined the Commercial Banking Co of Sydney Limited – at one stage he was given short term notice to be receiver of the State Opera Company, the bank had lent it a lot of money – did that job for 2½ years – unknown to the bank, the taxation department decided the administration of the opera company was poor – had been taking the tax out of the artists’ pay and had not given it to the tax department so decided to take possession over the opera company – the bank thought they would take control as mortgagee and Aubrey, as he played the violin, was given this work, but unknown to the bank the company had hired a train to tour NSW and Queensland – then as a newly married man, he found he was on a train to Queensland for two months.

Neil Falconer thanked Aubrey and presented him with a gift. Lucky door prizes were won by Judy Allan who chose “North Shore Sydney” by Les Thorne; Dinah Warner chose “A Spread of Green – Griffith – Its People & Past Events” by Sue Cheesbrough; Neil Falconer chose “The Book of Wooden Boats” by Maynard Bray & Benjamin Mendlowitz and Allan Winterbottom chose “The Beginnings of the Hills District” published by the Hills District Historical Society.

Notes by Elaine Turnidge

The English Lacemakers of Calais – you could be a descendant!

If your family arrived in Australia in 1848 aboard the *Agincourt* or the *Harpley* they were originally machine lacemakers! Fifty six passengers on the 1848 voyage of the *Fairlie* were also lacemakers. Other lacemaker emigrants followed in smaller groups on sailing ships including the *Andromache*, *Baboo*, *Bermondsey*, *Emperor*, *General Hewitt*, *Harbinger*, *Navarino*, *Nelson* and *Walmer Castle*. If your family's birth records from 1815 to 1848 include British subjects in Calais, St Pierre or elsewhere in France, or if there are Dover marriages in this period for your Nottingham, Leicestershire or Derby family members, you could be descended from a lacemaker. Do your Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire families have French connections?

For 32 years, the *Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.* (ASLC) has been unravelling lacemaker stories, and it holds useful records, especially from France. For further information see www.angelfire.com/al/aslc or contact KHS member, Richard Lander, richardlander@ozemail.com.au. Members connect through a quarterly journal called *Tulle* and meet at 1.00 pm on the third Saturday of each February (AGM), May, August and November at Don Bank Cottage, 6 Napier St, North Sydney. Visitors are always welcome. A copy of the ASLC book titled *Well Suited to the Colony* is held in the KHS library.

Richard Lander

Fisk Monument Anniversary

The reception in 1918 of the first direct wireless message to cross the world – from Wales to Wairoa – will again be commemorated next month on 22 September, the anniversary of the huge breakthrough which was the foundation of Australia's long-distance telegraph, telephone and broadcasting links with the wider world.

The Society's Jo Harris and others will mark this achievement at the Fisk Monument, unveiled in 1935 on the corner of Wairoa's Stuart and Cleveland Streets outside Lucania, former home of Sir Ernest Fisk, Member of the Institute of Radio Engineers and, as Managing Director of AWA Limited, the dominant figure in Australia's early electronics industry.

The signals Fisk received at his adjacent home originated at the Marconi Transmission Station at Waunfawr, near Carnarvon, North Wales and contained messages from Australia's Rt Hon Sir Joseph Cook, Minister for Navy, and The Rt Hon WM (Billy) Hughes, Prime Minister, who were then in Europe reviewing progress on the First World War battlefields.

Share some time with the KHS group in Wairoa to mark this day, as we tell passers-by about the monument and the achievement it commemorates, and see Mercury, the messenger, atop his column, in the fresh air for the one day in the year when he is released from the Ku-ring-gai Council lockup to participate in these proceedings. Ring Jo Harris on 9489 4393 to volunteer an hour or two.

Helen Davies

BUILT HERITAGE

Bungoona

31 Warrangi Street, Turramurra

In early July 2014 I was contacted by the daughter of KHS member Jeff Barlow, who had just received his *Newsletter*. Jeff wished to know whether the



Society would be interested in a Built Heritage article on his former home, 31 Warrangi Street Turramurra, which had been in the same family for 78 years, and was sold in 2014. I visited Jeff on Monday, 7 July at Turramurra House. Sadly, Jeff passed away six days later. This article is dedicated to Jeffrey John Barlow, OAM (1925–2014).

On 13 September 1927 Thomas Challinor purchased Lots A and B, being part of a re-subdivision of Lot 42 of the Allowah Estate. Challinor received approval in July 1936 to build a two bedroom double-brick and cement-rendered dwelling and a garage on Lot A. The builder was EW Sutton of 12 Coronation Avenue, Eastwood. In 1937 Challinor and his wife Edith May moved into their new home at 31 Warrangi Street, which they named *Bungoona*, an aboriginal word for 'sandy creek'.

In May 1937, Challinor received approval to build a five room dwelling on Lot B. This home at 29 Warrangi Street was built for his daughter and son-in-law, Hildred Thomasine and Eric Lionel Robertson, and their young daughter Patricia Edith who was born in 1927. Contemporary records indicate that the architect was James Charles Morrell, and the builder was George Frederick Gregory. It is possible that Morrell also designed *Bungoona*.

Thomas Alfred Challinor was born in 1872 and on 14 September 1898 at St Matthias Church Paddington, he married Edith May Brooker (1877–1967). Thomas died at his home on 28 February 1938. His wife continued living at *Bungoona* until the early 1950s, when she moved next door to live with her daughter.

On 6 June 1951, Challinor's granddaughter, Patricia (known as Pat) Robertson married Jeffrey John Barlow at St Albans Church, Lindfield, where Jeff was the organist for many years. Pat Robertson commenced her education at Gordon Public School, completing high school at Hornsby Girls High. Shortly after their marriage Jeff and Pat rented *Bungoona* from Edith Challinor and in July 1958 purchased the property. Over the next several years, Jeff and Pat undertook renovations to extend their home to accommodate their growing family of five children. Jeff Barlow was born on 7 May 1925, the only child of John and Mabel Barlow. He served in New Guinea with the Australian army in World War II, and was Honorary Secretary of the Parish Council of St Johns Church, Gordon for about ten years. Patricia Edith Barlow died on 1 August 2008.

Trish Thomson

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor **as early as possible** but no later than the 15th of the month (except November and December), unless otherwise arranged.

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New Members

We extend a warm welcome to members who have recently joined the Society.

John Cottee	Lyons ACT
Lorraine Ellis	Wilton
Sarah McFarlane	Pymble
Christina Whiteley	West Lindfield

We hope you find your membership rewarding, and look forward to your participation in our activities.

“Killara” Quiz

1. Killara is an aboriginal word meaning?
a) Always there? b) Grassy? c) Many kookaburras?
d) Permanent?
2. Florence Street is now called?
a) Karranga Avenue? b) Kalang Avenue? c) Kardella Avenue? d) Killara Avenue?
3. How many churches have been situated in Killara?
a) Two? b) Three? c) Four? d) Five?
4. Which of these hospitals is or was at Killara?
a) Bangalore? b) Strathlea? c) Southdean? d) Patlene?
5. Which of these prime ministers attended “Abbotsholme School”?
a) Harold Edward Holt? b) Kevin Rudd? c) Robert Menzies? d) William McMahon?
6. Born in 1881, Brigadier General Sydney Charles Edgar Herring died at Killara in 1951, in which street?
a) Norfolk Street? b) Nelson Road? c) Northcote Avenue? d) Nyora Street?

Jo Harris

Research Centre Hours

The Society’s Research Centre is at 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai Library.

The Centre is open to the public from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the 1st Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

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Diary Dates

- Sat 6 Sept Family History Meeting**
11.00 am New websites, including NSW BDMs and general Q&A
2.00 pm General Meeting followed by three members from the Arthur Phillip Chapter of The Fellowship of First Fleeters: *My First Fleet Ancestor was...*
- Sat 20 Sept 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
followed by *The Original Ku-ring-gai People*. Speaker: **Geoff Ford**.
- Sat 4 Oct Family History Meeting**
11.00 am TBA.
2.00 pm General Meeting followed by “Joseph Bidencope and his descendants”
Speaker: **Peter Bidencope**.
- Sat 18 Oct 2.00 pm Society General Meeting**
followed by *COAST: a history of the New South Wales edge*.
Ian Hoskins will trace the rich history of the state’s two-thousand kilometre long coastline, with its 130 estuaries and 100 coastal lakes, over millennia of human occupation.

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